

Message Text

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EXDIS FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, UN

SUBJECT: CONTACTS WITH THE MPLA

REF: USUN 1372

1. YOU SHOULD INFORM THE MPLA DELEGATION THAT WE SHARE THEIR DESIRE TO IMPROVE OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS AND THAT AMBASSADOR BENNETT (OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, AMBASSADOR SHERER), ACCEPTS THEIR INVITATION TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO THEIR INITIATIVE. THE MEETING SHOULD BE DISCREET AND, IF QUESTIONED ON IT BY OTHER DELEGATIONS, YOU MAY STATE THAT WE WERE RESPONDING TO MPLA'S APPROACH AND THAT IT DOES NOT SIGNIFY ANY POLICY CHANGE ON OUR PART.

2. DURING THE MEETING YOU SHOULD SEEK TO POSITION MPLA AS THE "DEMANDEUR," BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO STATE FIRST
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WHY THEY WANTED TO MEET WITH US AND ELICITING FROM THEM

EXPLANATIONS FOR SOME OF THEIR ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES.
QUESTIONS THAT PUZZLE US AND FOR WHICH WE WOULD APPRECIATE
CLARIFICATION INCLUDE:

-- IN VIEW OF AFRICA'S OVERWHELMING DESIRE TO END FOREIGN
DOMINATION, THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN

TROOPS AND THE CLAIM OF THE MPLA TO BE FOLLOWING A
NON-ALIGNED POLICY, WHAT WILL BE LUANDA'S FUTURE
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RETENTION OF CUBAN FORCES AND LARGE
NUMBERS OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS?

-- WHAT IS HOLDING UP THE IMPROVEMENT IN MPLA'S RELATIONS
WITH ZAMBIA? THIS CONCERNS US BECAUSE OF THE COMPARISON
WITH THE ACCELERATED PACE OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS
WITH ZAIRE.

-- IS THERE ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FACT THAT, ASIDE
FROM PORTUGAL, NO WESTERN EUROPEAN NATION HAS BEEN
PERMITTED TO ESTABLISH A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN LUANDA?
THIS HAS OCCURRED DESPITE THE FACT THEY ALL RECOGNIZED
THE MPLA IN FEBRUARY AND HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO
RETURN. SUCH A POLICY STRIKES US AS INCOMPATIBLE WITH
MPLA'S STATED DESIRE TO HAVE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ALL
STATES, AND OBVIOUSLY AFFECTS OUR OWN APPROACH TO
RECOGNITION.

-- DOES THE MARCH 26 STATEMENT BY MPLA PRIME MINISTER
LOPO DE NASCIMENTO (SEE FBIS, SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA,
APRIL 1, PP. E 1-3, PARTICULARLY PARA 8) INDICATE THE
POLICY YOUR GOVERNMENT DESIRES TO ADOPT TOWARD THE
UNITED STATES? WE HAVE BEEN CONCILIATORY IN OUR PUBLIC
STATEMENTS TOWARD THE MPLA AND OUR ACTIONS IN REGARD TO
BOEING AND GULF INDICATE OUR DESIRE TO PLACE OUR
RELATIONS ON A BASIS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. ON THE OTHER
HAND, MPLA HAS FAILED TO RETURN A US AIRCRAFT WHICH MADE
AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN ANGOLA, HAS OCCUPIED PROPERTIES
LEASED TO OUR CONSULATE GENERAL IN LUANDA AND HAS
ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SHOW TRIAL OF
CAPTURED MERCENARIES, INCLUDING TWO AMERICANS, WHICH WE
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FEAR WILL BE USED TO FUEL INCREASED ANTI-AMERICAN
SENTIMENT IN ANGOLA.

3. SHOULD MPLA QUERY YOU ON OUR POLICY ON RECOGNITION
AND THEIR ADMISSION TO THE UN, YOU SHOULD REPLY THAT
THEIR ATTITUDES EXPRESSED IN THIS CONVERSATION AS WELL
AS THEIR FUTURE CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZING RELA-
TIONS WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS AND OTHER STATES WILL BE

MAJOR FACTORS IN DETERMINING OUR OWN POSITION ON
RECOGNITION, AND ULTIMATELY, ON THEIR ADMISSION TO THE UN.
YOU MAY STATE WE HAVE NOT YET DETERMINED OUR POSITION.

4. AS A MEANS TO KEEP THE DOOR AJAR FOR FURTHER
CONTACTS, YOU SHOULD ASK THEM WHAT ARE THEIR IMMEDIATE
TRAVEL PLANS AND HOW LONG BOTH LUVUALU AND FIGUERIDO
INTEND TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES. KISSINGER

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